

Please amend claims 1 to 16 as follows:

1. (Amended) A heel lining for the shoe industry, made up of a nonwoven fabric impregnated with a polymer, having a surface weight of 180 to 350 g/m<sup>2</sup>, and tear propagation resistance values greater than 15 N in both the lengthwise and the crosswise direction, wherein the nonwoven fabric is made up of melt-spun, multi-component endless filaments, aerodynamically stretched and directly laid up to form a nonwoven material, having a titer less than 2 dTex, and wherein the multi-component endless filaments, after preliminary bonding, are split and bonded up to at least 90 % to produce supermicro endless filaments having a titer less than 0.2 dTex.

2. (Amended) The heel lining according to claim 1, wherein the multi-component endless filament is a bi-component endless filament of two incompatible polymers, said two incompatible polymers including a polyester and a polyamide.

3. (Amended) The heel lining according to claim 2, wherein the polyester portion of the multi-component endless filament is higher than the polyamide portion.

4. (Amended) The heel lining according to claim 3, wherein the weight ratio of the polyester portion to the polyamide portion in the multi-component endless filament is 1.1:1 to 3:1.

5. (Amended) The heel lining according to claim 2, wherein the multi-component endless filaments have a cross-section with an orange-like multi-segment structure, wherein the segments alternately contain one of the two incompatible polymers, in each instance.

6. (Amended) The heel lining according to claim 1, wherein the nonwoven fabric made of the multi-component endless filaments is pre-calandered for the purpose of preliminary prebonding.

7. (Amended) The heel lining according to claim 2, wherein at least one of the incompatible polymers that forms the multi-component endless filament contains an

additive, selected from a group consisting of dyeing pigments, permanently acting anti-statics and/or additives that influence the hydrophilic properties, in amounts up to 15 wt.-%.

8. (Amended) The heel lining according to claim 1, wherein the multi-component endless filament is not crimped.

9. (Amended) The heel lining according to claim 1, wherein the nonwoven fabric is impregnated with 20 to 50 wt.-% of a polymer, with reference to the starting weight of the nonwoven fabric.

10. (Amended) The heel lining according to claim 1, wherein a high-quality nubuck-like surface is formed after polishing due to ends of the microfilament being exposed at the surface.

11. (Amended) The heel lining according to claim 1, wherein one of the two sides of the heel lining is provided with an application of hot-melt glue.

12. (Amended) A method for the production of a heel lining, the method comprising the steps of:

- spinning multi-component endless filaments from a melt;
- aerodynamically stretching the multi-component endless filaments;
- directly laying up the multi-component endless filaments to form a nonwoven material;
- performing a prebonding step by one of calendering or needle-punching;
- bonding the nonwoven fabric by high-pressure fluid jets;
- simultaneously splitting the nonwoven fabric into supermicro-filaments having a titer < 0.2 dTex; and
- impregnating the nonwoven fabric with a polymer.

13. (Amended) The method according to claim 12, wherein the steps of bonding and splitting the multi-component endless filaments includes the steps of alternately impacting the multi-component endless filaments from both sides with high-pressure water jets, several times.